

S. Tsukuda et al.
U.S. Serial No. 09/880,385
Page 6 of 6

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the notification of allowable subject matter, i.e., that claims 3 and 19 were allowed over the prior art, and that claims 5, 6, 18, and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

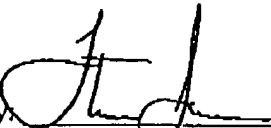
Claims 1, 3-15, and 19 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 18, which has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 20, which has been canceled without prejudice. Therefore, independent claims 1 and 4 and their respective dependent claims should be in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-17 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected species. Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application based on claims 16 and 17. Claims 7-15 depend from claim 4 (either directly or indirectly), and thus are subject to rejoinder. Therefore, the allowed claims should be: claims 1, 3-15, and 19.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

By 
Steven M. Jensen
(Reg. No. 42,693)

Date: October 14, 2005

P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205

Phone: (617) 439-4444

Customer No. 21874